

Appln. No. 10/773,648

Docket No. 200-89

Amendment

Reply to Office Action dated December 16, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

[0035] Outside of each stop disk 38, a bearing shell 42 in turn forms a grip around a respective one of the external bearing surfaces 36. As compared to the axially relatively thin stop disk 38, the bearing shell has an axial length in the range of several millimeters, e.g., of 3-6 millimeters. In terms of facts, it consists of a ring that substantially corresponds to the ring of the stop disk and of a collar of a smaller outer diameter that is turned away from the external teeth 34. Together, these two portions form the inner bore. A lug 44 projects radially from the collar. On the diametrically opposite side thereof a slot 46 is formed so that the bearing shell 42, while being made from one piece, is substantially implemented with the shape of a C. The slot 46 is provided with small dimensions ranging for example from 0.1 to 2 mm. It provides an air gap 46 48. In the embodiment shown, the slot is obtained by a cut that is made in the radial and the axial direction. The air gap 48 may be defined otherwise as well.

[0037] In the first housing part 20, bearing grooves 50 are provided for receiving the outer edge of the bearing shell 42. The housing 20, 22 also comprises a recess receiving the lug 24 44 so that the bearing shell 42 is prevented from rotating relative to the housing 20, 22.

[0038] Further, the worm wheel 26 is carried within the housing 20, 22. Its axis substantially forms a right angle and is offset relative to the axis of the worm wheel 26 and of the spindle 28. It has a worm 52 on its outer case and within a polygonal seat 54 for receiving an elastic drive shaft. At each axial end, the worm wheel 26 is rotatably carried on a ball bearing 56 within the housing 20, 22. Bearing bushes 58 that are similar to the bearing shells 42 are additionally provided.

[0040] For silencing, two shells 64 made of rubber or of a corresponding material straddle the gear in a manner well known in the art, said gear being accommodated in a substantially U-shaped bearing angle 64 66.